

# Rocky Mountain Power: Your bill may go up - but not by so much

**The utility's requested increase shrinks again to about \$2.10 a month**

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Rocky Mountain Power has again slashed the size of its requested rate increase.

The company, the Utah operating arm of Oregon-based PacifiCorp, told the Public Service Commission on Monday it has reduced the size of its requested increase to \$74.5 million from \$100 million.

Steven R. McDougal, the director of revenue requirement at Rocky Mountain Power, said the reduction in part resulted from the electric company adjusting the accounting for its income taxes.

If the PSC grants the company's request the typical Utahn's electric bill will go up by approximately \$2.10 a month.

McDougal reiterated Rocky Mountain Power needs a rate increase so it can continue to provide reliable service to its Utah customers and make much needed improvements to its electrical generation and distribution system.

The PSC on Monday opened what is expected to be a week of hearings into Rocky Mountain Power's request to collect increased revenue from Utah residents as well as its small business and industrial customers.

Michele Beck, director of the state's Committee of Consumer Services, said that group has yet to include Rocky Mountain Power's tax accounting adjustment into its own projections.

"We haven't run that through our [computer] models yet," Beck said, indicating that tax adjustment should reduce the size of the increase that the committee is recommending the PSC approve for the company.

Rocky Mountain Power in December asked state utility regulators to allow it to raise its rates by \$161 million.

However, in March it was forced to reduce its request to \$100 million, or by 38 percent, after the PSC ruled the company's rates could be based only on its expenses and the amount it expected to spend on its generation and transmission system during calendar year 2008.

A disappointed Rocky Mountain Power responded by notifying the PSC it expected to file another rate case in early June.

"We may be filing fairly soon now," said Rocky Mountain Power spokesman Dave Eskelsen.

The current rate case, though, will only address the company's costs and the investments it plans to make through the end of this year. The rate case it intends to file this month will be designed to address the investments the company plans to make after that.

"By filing another rate case we're hoping to more closely synchronize the rates that are in effect with the investments we're making in our system," Eskelsen said.